

Robert Redford Tapes Conservation Messages

Des News 11 Dec 1970

PROVO — A series of short messages seeking greater environmental protection of the Provo River and Provo Canyon, taped by movie actor Robert Redford, were sent to radio stations this week by several Utah County conservation groups.

Redford consulted several biologists and environmental specialists before taping the messages at his own expense, save the Provo River Association officials said. "He has

indicated a dedicated effort to preserve Provo Canyon, as well as his own Sundance Resort, for future visitors to enjoy," Dr. David A. White, Brigham Young University aquatic biologist, said.

The messages seek "preservation of worthwhile values" in future road construction and other major changes in Provo Canyon, and are condensed into 15-30 seconds, Steven Penrod, STPRA president said.

Robert Redford Tapes Conservation Messages

Des News 12-11-70

PROVO — A series of short messages seeking greater environmental protection of the Provo River and Provo Canyon, taped by movie actor Robert Redford, were sent to radio stations this week by several Utah County conservation groups.

Redford consulted several biologists and environmental specialists before taping the messages at his own expense, save the Provo River Association officials said. "He has

indicated a dedicated effort to preserve Provo Canyon, as well as his own Sundance Resort, for future visitors to enjoy," Dr. David A. White, Brigham Young University aquatic biologist, said.

The messages seek "preservation of worthwhile values" in future road construction and other major changes in Provo Canyon, and are condensed into 15-30 seconds, Steven Penrod, STPRA president said.

Robert Redford Opposes New Provo Canyon Road

Provo Herald 16 Dec 1970

Movie star Robert Redford, president of Sundance Resort, has charged in a letter to Governor Calvin L. Rampton that the Provo Chamber of Commerce decision to support the proposed new Provo Canyon highway was not unanimous and did not represent the entire chamber.

Mr. Redford told the governor he is opposed to the road as now planned because he believes it will cause "irrevocable damage to the ecology of the area."

'Never Consulted'

Concerning his charge that the Provo Chamber of Commerce decision was misrepresented as unanimous, Mr. Redford's letter declared that the newly-elected president of the chamber, Stanley Collins (one of the officers of Sundance) "was never consulted" on all phases of the proposal and that Mr. Collins "is thoroughly opposed to the new road."

Mr. Redford's letter said that he certainly was in favor of improving the existing road, but that concerning the proposed new highway "we do not feel the money it would take as well as the irrevocable damage to the ecology of the area would be worth it."

Makes Statement

In a recent statement to a representative of The Daily Herald, Mr. Redford asserted he felt that Provo Canyon, particularly if the steam railroad is developed as a tourist attraction, could become one of the finest tourist attractions of the West. Although the train, consisting of a steam engine and several cars are now in Heber, Mr. Redford

bemoaned the fact that the state road commission plans to rip up the tracks at least partway up Provo Canyon, thus isolating the train between Heber and some point in the canyon.

As in other parts of the nation and Europe, it could be developed as a ski train from Provo, taking passengers to Wildwood with transportation from there to the Sundance ski area by bus, he said. "Of course Sundance would gain from this," he said frankly, "but it would also greatly enhance the attraction of the entire area."

Mr. Redford said he has been active in the Save The Provo River Association because he realized the beauty and ecological value of Provo River, and wanted to see it preserved.

Lack Appreciation

"Even as most New Yorkers never get to the top of the Empire State Building, many Utahns fail to appreciate Provo Canyon," he told the Herald. "As an outsider when I came here, I saw it as one of the most beautiful areas in the world."

Besides becoming the principal owner and developer of Sundance Resort, formerly Timp Haven, Mr. Redford and his wife, the former Lola Van Wagenen of Provo, have built a home near Sundance where they live when Mr. Redford's movie commitments do not call him elsewhere.

He told the Herald he believed Provo River would further suffer from the new highway as planned. "You can't put a mountain, or a tree, or a river back, once you destroy them," he declared.